

# *Social Planning Advisory Committee – Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2011  
Time: 7:07 pm  
File: 0540-20

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**Present:**

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve  
K. Ardawa  
S. Dooley  
D. Chattha  
L. Coyle  
G. Gill  
G. Dean (alternate)

**Absent:**

Councillor Rasode  
M. Chatwin  
K. Kreis  
Dr. Z. Malik  
R. Mehta

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner  
T. Capuccinello, Assistant City Solicitor  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

**Also Present:**

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by S. Dooley  
Seconded by D. Chattha  
That the minutes of the Social Planning Advisory  
Committee meeting held on May 26, 2011, be adopted.  
Carried

**The agenda order was varied.**

**D. NEW BUSINESS****1. Standards of Maintenance By-law**  
File No. 3900-01

At its May 30, 2011 meeting, Council requested that the City Solicitor prepare a report to the Social Planning Advisory Committee regarding a Standards of Maintenance By-law for the City of Surrey, including appropriate recommendations for the Committee's consideration.

The City Solicitor's June 20, 2011 memorandum to the SPAC recommends that the Committee:

- (a) Receive this report as information.
- (b) Recommend that Council recommend the City of Surrey rely on enforcement of the maintenance and repair provisions of the Residential Tenancy Act administered by the province and the Surrey Community Improvement and Unsightly Property By-law administered by the City.

The Assistant City Solicitor provided an overview of the report. The City of Surrey has not adopted a Standards of Maintenance By-law due primarily to two concerns as provided below:

1. The City will inherit liability for failing to enforce the Building, Fire, and Electrical Codes related to building deficiencies that occur after final occupancy of a building, where such deficiencies contribute to damage, loss or personal injury incurred by visitors to and/or occupants of such residential buildings; and
2. That the adoption of a Standards of Maintenance By-law is, in effect, downloading of Provincial responsibility to the local government. This statement is made in view of the fact that the primary statutory means to determine responsibility for ordinary and emergency repairs to residential premises are found in the Residential Tenancy Act, which is the responsibility of the province to administer. The Residential Tenancy Act also provides for a dispute resolution process through provincially-funded and appointed "directors" who have the power to make findings of fact or law in relation to building repair disputes. The orders of the "directors" may be enforced through the Courts.  
The Community Charter enables a local government to enact a standards of maintenance by-law, which is administered by the local government and may supplement the responsibilities for normal maintenance and repair under the Residential Tenancy Act.  
Does the City want to embark on the Standards of Maintenance Bylaw?  
The overall recommendation from the City Solicitor is that a Standards of Maintenance Bylaw not be adopted as there is an adequate system in place.

Committee members provided the following comments:

- Committee members who work with low-income people and/or new immigrants commented that often when renters make a complaint to the Residential Tenancy Branch they end up being evicted under the premise that the unit is to be renovated or the landlord needs the suite for his/her own use. Could a Standards of Maintenance By-law help?
- There are issues around the enforcement of the Residential Tenancy Act - either rental units are never fixed up to meet safety standards or the process takes a long time. It would be good to know how active the Residential Tenancy Branch is in responding to complaints.
- There are several municipalities in Metro Vancouver that have standards of maintenance by-laws. It was suggested that the City of Surrey look at the experiences of these municipalities. How does a Standards of Maintenance By-law and RTA work together? What are these cities' experiences with enforcement?
- It was noted that Surrey's Unsightly Property By-law does not address issues in the interior of a building.
- The problem could be that tenants do not understand what their rights are-- especially new immigrants. This may mean that more regulation is not needed, but rather education/awareness about tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities.
- The Committee agreed that it would like more information and/or research to be done so that they have a better understanding of the issues before making a recommendation to Council.
- Stephen Dooley suggested that Kwantlen Polytechnic University could help with the research.

Councillor Villeneuve, Stephen Dooley and Aileen Murphy will meet with John Ande of Acorn Canada to hear ACORN's perspective on the scope of the problem.

The Legal Department will work with Social Planning to provide a more comprehensive report at the October 4, 2011 SPAC meeting.

It was Moved by L. Coyle  
 Seconded by S. Dooley  
 That the Social Planning Advisory Committee refer the Standards of Maintenance issue back to the Senior Social Planner, the legal department and Stephen Dooley of Kwantlen Polytechnic University to provide the Committee with a more comprehensive report, along with recommendations.  
Carried

## B. DELEGATIONS

### 2. **Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) Grant: "Acting Together" Prevention of Youth Gang Involvement** File No. 1850-20

Stephen Dooley, Dr. Roger Tweed and Dr. Gira Bhatt provided a presentation regarding the Youth Violence Project.

- Funding \$1 Million over 5 years - 2009-2014.
- 5 Main Goals: Identify culturally relevant modifiable protective factors; make recommendations to modify existing programs; share knowledge through workshops, community conversations; empower community for evidence-based advocacy; and, improve media images of our community and youth. The process has been through on-going community consultations, review of parallel work, evidence based research, on-going support for collaborative youth events and activities and dissemination of information.

Dr. Roger Tweed noted that it is important to find out what leads youth in the right direction.

- CURA just finished a project following 400 8th graders over a six month period. Early findings indicate that self esteem, combined with humility (*others are just as good as you*) is associated with less violence. Also, the more parents are aware of where their kids are the happier the kids are with their lives.

Other project activities have included:

- The project connected with Shaw Cable and S.D. 36. Shaw provided the hours, studio time, personnel, a director, and the students learned how to handle equipment, did interviewing and produced a video. This provided additional training.
- Another project is a community vegetable garden and young people learned how to grow vegetables. They are planning to do it again.
- An event for parents was organized to educate them about appropriate movies to watch, appropriate behavior, and atmosphere at home. The difficulty is getting unengaged parents involved. The message to get out is that *those parents who are involved have more successful kids*.

The team plans to undertake a study on youth who have left gangs.

Stephen Dooley will advise the committee members of upcoming events.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked the delegation and looks forward to the next installment.

#### 1. **Transitions into Post-Secondary Education**

File No. 5080-01

Committee member Geoff Dean provided a presentation on the implications of Kwantlen Polytechnic University being able to offer our region only half of the accessibility that BC's other regional post-secondary institutions offer their regions. Geoff noted that many of the other issues the Committee deals with--homelessness, health care, poverty, etc.--are highly correlated with people's level of education, and so the lack of adult educational opportunities in Surrey is troubling. The following concerns were raised:

- Surrey – can the future live here? Can Surrey residents get access to the post-secondary education they need?
- Kwantlen's legislated mandate: to serve its region (Surrey, White Rock, the Langleys, Delta and Richmond) with accessible post-secondary education. To be a teaching university, not focused on purely academic research.
- Kwantlen's commitment to open access is one of its cornerstones as a university.
- Does Kwantlen have the resources to provide enough access to post secondary education for people in Surrey? **No.**
- People in Surrey have half the access to post-secondary as people elsewhere in BC:
  - Kwantlen gets funding to offer 9,041 FTE seats to serve the 904,247 people in its region; a ratio of 10.0 FTEs per 1,000 residents of our region.
  - The rest of BC, other regional institutions are funded to offer 72,062 FTEs for 3,624,963 people; a ratio of 19.9 FTEs per 1,000.
  - Kwantlen region – 51,000 adults lacking grade 12 – Kwantlen offered 505 FTE seats in its ABE – that is 9.8 ABE seats per 1,000.
  - The rest of BC – 223,466 adults lacking grade 12 – 39.6 ABE seats are offered per 1,000.
- Why? It is historical. No good rational reason as to why past funding formulas continue.

Geoff has presented this information to the Board of Trade but not recently to the government. He is not speaking as an official representative of Kwantlen on this.

The Committee supported Geoff's suggestion that he make a presentation to Council regarding funding issues affecting Kwantlen in this region and the implications for the health and economic growth of the City.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

It was

Moved by L. Coyle

Seconded by D. Chattha

That the Social Planning Advisory Committee recommend that Council urge the provincial government to provide equitable funding to Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey.

Carried with S. Dooley abstaining

Agenda order resumed.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

### 1. SPAC 2011 "Fun Work Schedule"

File No. 5080-01

- Upcoming dates:
  - October 4, 2011 – next SPAC meeting
    - make decision on recommended award recipients
    - Poverty reduction – invite Alice Sundberg, Vibrant Surrey/Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force
    - Standards of Maintenance staff report
  - October 25, 2011 – awards reception – at new Surrey library
  - November 19, 2011 – Municipal election
  - November 24 – SPAC meeting – 2 delegations – Honouring Diverse Beliefs and Civil Rights Now!; a Xmas social celebration
- SPAC Planning for 2012 – at the January 2012 SPAC meeting

### 2. "Heart in the City" Awards Update

File No. 0350-01

- Draft fliers were provided on table:
  - General *Civic Awards* – to be advertised in Now and Leader newspapers and on bus shelters
  - *Heart in the City* - E-flier to be shared with our connections
- Awards launch is June 29, 2011 - nominations close on September 9, 2011 – nomination process will be simple.
- Committee members are encouraged to promote the Heart in the City awards amongst their networks.
- Awards Subcommittee to meet in mid September –meeting date TBD
- Subcommittee will have 3 weeks in September to review the nominations. SPAC will decide on recommended award recipients at meeting on October 4.
- Awards reception will be on October 25 at the new Surrey Centre Library.

### 3. Poverty Fact Sheets Update

File No. 5080-01

- Councillor Villeneuve and Aileen Murphy have been working with Vibrant Surrey, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force and SPARC BC. Existing data on poverty in Surrey is being compiled to provide a snapshot of poverty in Surrey.
- Vibrant Surrey will be making a presentation to Council on July 11, 2011.
- It was suggested that Alice Sundberg be invited to the October 4, 2011 SPAC meeting.
- The next step will be a community consultation process to discuss the information and identify strategies to reduce poverty in Surrey. This process is expected to be completed in early 2012.

- Councillor Villeneuve noted that this poverty project represents meeting one of the goals of this committee.

## E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

### 1. **Surrey School District – CommunityLINK Funding**

Council RES.R11-896

File No. 4750-01

Council appreciated and supported the resolution from this Committee and requested that a letter be sent to the Provincial Government on behalf of Mayor and Council addressing the inequity in CommunityLINK funding provided to the Surrey School District.

## F. CORRESPONDENCE

## G. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 1. **2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count Results**

File No. 5080-01

The following comments were provided:

- Preliminary Report was distributed. The numbers have gone down slightly.
- Surrey has a higher proportion of homeless who are unsheltered as compared to Vancouver. The reason is that Surrey has been housing people rather than sheltering people.

## H. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. **Committee Member Updates**

- Stephen Dooley reported that Kwantlen is hosting a Town Hall meeting on the "Anatomy of a Riot" -
  - Wednesday, June 29, 2011 - 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Kwantlen
  - There will be a panel of speakers to look at what happened in Vancouver. Part of the analysis to be of why it went so well in Surrey.
  - Suggestion was provided that Stephen contact the GM, Parks Recreation and Culture for representation from the City of Surrey.
- Copies of the Social Plan 2010 Annual Report were provided on table. The Social Plan was adopted 5 years ago; this year's report highlights some of the projects that have been undertaken over the past five years.

## I. NEXT MEETING

CANCELLED meetings:

July 28, 2011

September 14, 2011

October 27, 2011

Next meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 4, 2011.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by L. Coyle

That the Social Planning Advisory Committee

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:10 pm

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve  
Social Planning Advisory Committee